

SACRAMENTO-SAN JOAQUIN DELTA REGIONAL FLOOD RESPONSE GROUP

Basis for Regional Flood Response Planning

The emergency managers of Contra Costa, Solano, Yolo, Sacramento, and San Joaquin Counties have developed the following recommended basis for developing more effective response to threats to levee integrity, and therefore to life and property, in the Delta.

Planning Statement #1

Counties operating with their cities and reclamation districts as an Operational Area can potentially provide more rapid organizational response to threats to levee integrity due to the fact that levee patrol and problem identification is a local responsibility and local administrative organizations and decision making authorities are in closer proximity to emerging levee problems.

- Issue: Counties and cities have not traditionally been seen as sources for response to levee problems, or direct support to public agencies responding to levee problems, due to financial and jurisdictional issues. The Operational Area concept provides a basis for realizing the potential of Planning Statement #1.
- Issue: The resources of counties, cities, and reclamation districts making up an Operational Area are too limited for carrying out many recognized actions needed to rectify identified levee problems. Funding from bond or other sources should be provided for use by local governments to realize the potential of Planning Statement #1.
- Issue: The Department of Water Resources provides critical technical and direct flood fight support to local response efforts over the entire Central Valley. DWR should be prepared to supplement enhanced local efforts with direct flood fight assistance that is beyond the capabilities of local jurisdictions through the mission tasking process maintained by the Governor's Office of Emergency Services and under priorities established by the Director of Water Resources and staff.
- Issue: The United States Army Corps of Engineers provides critical technical assistance and direct flood fight assistance in support of the State emergency response. USACE must be prepared to rapidly provide technical and direct assistance to command entities identified in Planning Statement #2 under PL84-99. USACE would integrate its efforts into a basin-wide flood fight through the regional coordination entity identified in Planning Statement #2.

SACRAMENTO-SAN JOAQUIN DELTA REGIONAL FLOOD RESPONSE PLAN

Basis for Regional Flood Response Planning, Continued

Planning Statement #2:

The five Operational Areas (counties with their cities and reclamation districts) and State agencies with direct flood fight resources should integrate and coordinate flood fight activities through pre-established Flood Fight Unified Commands which would bring together reclamation districts with a common direct threat to improve coordination with each other and with local, State, and Federal agencies. These Unified Commands would be supported by a Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Region Multi-agency Coordination System (hereafter Delta MACS).

- Issue: Operational Areas will determine for their jurisdiction the proper organizational structure/relationship for flood fight command(s) and other commands responsible for evacuation and rescue operations.
- Issue: Planning and intelligence elements that would be shared through the Delta MACS, and its regional coordination responsibilities, will be clearly identified.
- Issue: The Delta MACS will consist of operational areas and State agencies with direct response authorities in the Delta. Delta MACS would be the initial point of coordination for Federal agencies assisting in an emergency affecting the entire Delta.
- Issue: Response to levee problems and levee failure should be guided by pre-developed flood contingency maps providing historical and survey information and response options necessary for most effective decision making.
- Issue: Resources within established mutual aid systems (Law, Fire, Medical/Health, Public Works) will be managed within the normal Standardized Emergency Management System (SEMS). Automatic aid agreements may be created between the Delta counties for specialized resources unique to Delta emergencies (e.g. watercraft and helicopters). Resources managed by Delta MACS will be clearly identified.
- Issue: Federal disaster assistance programs should facilitate direct action by all agencies participating in these coordination entities to threats to levee integrity or to contain flood waters.

SACRAMENTO-SAN JOAQUIN DELTA REGIONAL FLOOD RESPONSE PLAN

Basis for Regional Flood Response Planning, Continued

Planning Statement #3:

State and Federal agencies should have pre-identified operational support assignments common for all five Delta operational areas. State or Federal agencies may perform such a pre-assigned function in all Delta operational areas (counties and cities) through a single agency command structure coordinating with Delta MACS.

- Issue: Federal agencies will work with operational areas to pre-identify Delta wide assignments to be coordinated through the Delta MACS.
- Issue: State agencies providing resources and response in the Delta will participate as a member of the Delta MACS with local representation in Flood Fight Unified Commands.
- Issue: State and Federal agencies should pre-identify potential missions, and take steps to ensure their ability to rapidly fulfill such missions if approved, through participation in the creation of flood contingency maps.

Planning Statement #4:

Evacuation and rescue operations should remain the individual responsibility of each local jurisdiction with support provided under established mutual aid systems.

- Issue: The State of California should facilitate the development of regional operational plans for large scale evacuations crossing county lines.
- Issue: The process for mutual aid requests for the Counties of Solano and Contra Costa should be reviewed for beneficial modifications during Delta floods.
- Issue: Delta counties and cities should develop common organizational approaches to evacuation and rescue operations in order to facilitate the rapid incorporation of mutual aid resources from other counties into each's operations.

MULTI-AGENCY COORDINATION SYSTEM (MACS)

A multiagency coordination system is a combination of facilities, equipment, personnel, procedures, and communications integrated into a common system with responsibility for coordinating and supporting domestic incident management activities. The primary functions of multi-agency coordination systems are to support incident management policies and priorities, facilitate logistics support and resource tracking, inform resource allocation decisions using incident management priorities, coordinate incident management related information, and coordinate interagency and intergovernmental issues regarding incident management policies, priorities, and strategies. A typical multiagency coordination system may contain one or several Emergency Operations Centers (EOCs). Depending upon the type and location of the emergency/disaster, various command elements (i.e. area commands, unified command or the incident commander) will have to coordinate activities within an established multi-agency coordination system.

FLOOD FIGHT UNIFIED COMMAND

Unified Command allows all responsible agencies to manage an incident together by establishing a common set of incident objectives and strategies. As a team effort, Unified Command overcomes much of the inefficiency and duplication of effort that can occur when agencies from different functional and geographical jurisdictions, or agencies at different levels of government, operate without a common system or organizational framework.

Flood Fight Unified Command would consist of the 1) reclamation districts who would face an immediate common threat if any one of those districts flooded and/or which cover a distinct identifiable section of the water basin, 2) the Federal and State agencies representatives assigned to provide flood fight assistance to that group of districts, and 3) County/city agencies that provide flood fight assistance, command coordination, or liaison with evacuation and rescue command entities.

A deputy commander would be assigned to the Unified Command to facilitate meetings, coordination with County, State, and Federal agencies operating over a wider geographical area, and the Delta Regional Multi-Agency Coordination System (MACS). The deputy would be drawn from a local agency (fire district, County department, etc.) who has command qualities. State and Federal agencies with limited resources would coordinate directly through the Delta Regional MACS which would facilitate their interaction and participation in the Flood Fight Unified Commands. Incident/Unified Commands for evacuation, rescue, and security would most likely coordinate with the Flood Fight Unified Commands through liaison or through the Deputy Commander.